

1954

A CHRISTIAN NEWSLETTER ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Department of International Justice and Goodwill  
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.  
297 Fourth Avenue -- New York 10, N.Y.

(Prepared by the staff for the information of constituents.)

June 1, Number 2

\$1.00 per year

20 July 1953

WEST ASKS FOUR-POWER TALKS ON GERMANY

On July 14 the foreign ministers of Britain, France and the U.S., meeting in Washington, invited the Soviet foreign minister to join them this fall to discuss the problem of unifying Germany. In their public statement the Western ministers reaffirmed their support of the European Defense Community treaty, and made it clear they would not give up EDC as the price of German reunification.

This willingness of the U.S. to negotiate directly with the Soviet Union on one of the world's most knotty problems will receive wide support among our churches. The first Biennial Assembly of the National Council of Churches meeting in Denver, December, 1952, said this: "In the face of the most exasperating opposition we (the U.S.) must persist in honest negotiation as the method of settling international disputes; we must reject the theory that a third world war is inevitable."

NOLDE REPORTS ON TALK WITH PRESIDENT RHEE

O. Frederick Nolde, reporting on his recent visit to Seoul, said that he has "frankly" informed President Syngman Rhee of South Korea that the Christian world opposed any obstruction of a truce in the Korean war and favored a prompt armistice on UN terms. Mr. Nolde had a long interview with President Rhee on July 3 in the midst of negotiations between Rhee and Walter S. Robertson, Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs. Mr. Nolde said that Mr. Robertson's handling of the delicate truce negotiations was "superb."

As Director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, Mr. Nolde represented the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council which together have a world membership of 175,000,000.

EISENHOWER AND HAMMARSKJOLD ON KOREA

President Eisenhower in his letter to South Korean President Syngman Rhee, released June 7, said: "The unification of Korea is an end to which the United States is committed... Korea is unhappily not the only country divided after World War II. We remain determined to play our part in achieving the political union of all countries so divided. But we do not intend to employ war as an instrument to accomplish the world-wide political settlements to which we are dedicated and which we believe to be just."

In his first major address as Secretary General of the UN, Dag Hammarskjold said on June 27 that action by the UN against aggression in Korea constitutes "a new formula in the history of political conflicts" and demands that the world learn to accept "such unfamiliar developments as a war which ends without total victory for any party but only for a principle."



HAROLD STASSEN AWARDS PRIZES TO POINT 4 CONTEST WINNERS

The four top winners of a nation-wide Point 4 Essay Contest received their cash awards from Mutual Security Administrator Harold Stassen on the NBC-TV program, "Youth Wants To Know," in Washington, D.C., July 12. In the high school section the first prize of \$400 went to Jon Alvah Peterson of Columbus, Ohio; the second prize of \$200 went to Edward A. Feigenbaum of North Bergen, N.J. In the college section the \$400 prize went to Thomas E. Skidmore of Cincinnati, Ohio; the \$200 prize went to Thomas F. Deutsch of Shaker Heights, Ohio. The other 22 prizes were awarded locally. Prizes totalled \$1,900. The contest made possible by the Zela Van Loan Fund was sponsored by the Department of International Justice and Goodwill with the cooperation of the United Christian Youth Movement. Mr. Willard Espy was chairman of the Essay Contest Committee.

BERIA PURGED: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

On July 9 Radio Moscow announced that L. P. Beria, Deputy Premier of the U.S.S.R. and secret police chief, had been arrested for being "an agent of international imperialism." Will the purge of Russia's "No. 2" leader mean a change in Soviet foreign policy? There was no clear answer among Western observers. But many spokesmen warned the free world not to jump to the conclusion that Beria's arrest and the recent revolt in East Germany mean the end of Soviet aggression.

Said Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, new Supreme Commander of NATO forces in Europe: "All the power and might of (Russia's) ruthless machine are intact. Its menace remains undiminished. Indeed it would be well to remember that all too often war has been the desperate solution of tyranny confronted by such an international condition." He added, "never was there a greater need among NATO nations for unity, for wisdom and for perseverance. Never was there a greater need to see clearly that our lives are bound inextricably together."

FOREIGN AID BILL PASSED BY CONGRESS

At this writing the foreign aid authorization bill has been passed by Congress, but the appropriation to support this bill has not been passed. The Mutual Security Bill authorizing \$5,157,232,500 for military, economic and technical foreign aid was passed on July 13. According to the bill more than \$1,000,000,000 of military aid to Western Europe will be withheld unless the European Defense Community treaty is ratified. The EDC is a plan to weld into a single military force the fighting units of West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

The Senate adopted the aid bill by a voice vote. In the House the vote was 221 to 109-- 94 Republicans, 126 Democrats and one Independent voted for the measure; 80 Republicans and 29 Democrats against. This bill includes economic aid and technical assistance for Asia, Africa and Latin America.

President Eisenhower is strongly in favor of the full appropriation to support the authorization which is \$642,999,500 short of his original request, and \$2,442,767,500 less than former President Truman requested. But an Appropriations subcommittee of the House voted on July 16 to cut \$1,100,000,000 from President Eisenhower's foreign aid program.

Testifying before the Senate Appropriations Committee on July 9, Secretary of State Dulles warned that substantial cuts in Eisenhower's foreign aid request would cause the "entire Mutual Security Program" to collapse. "Then in two or three years we will be back here with a program that will make this one look like peanuts."



WORLD EVENTS SHAPE CLEVELAND TOPICS

The Cleveland Conference on the Churches and World Order (Oct. 27-30) will come to grips with several problems thrown into significance by recent international developments. Since the last Study Conference (Cleveland, March 8-11, 1949) NATO has been established, the Point 4 program was started, and the UN has met Communist aggression in Korea by military force. In the past two years there has been a growing interest in helping the economies of our allies by permitting them to sell more goods here rather than by giving them grants or loans.

These and other far-reaching developments were taken into account by the Cleveland Planning Committee and are reflected in the topics of the five working papers now being prepared by five study commissions. The topics of the commissions and the names of their chairmen follow:

1. The Christian Faith and International Responsibility, the Rt. Rev. Angus Dun, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C. The title of this commission is also the overall theme of the Cleveland Conference.
2. The United States and the United Nations, Mrs. Edith Sampson, a Chicago attorney and a former U.S. delegate to the UN.
3. The United States and Foreign Economic Policy, Prof. Willard L. Thorp, Former Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs.
4. The United States and the Underdeveloped Areas, Dr. Emory P. Ross, former secretary of the Africa Committee of the National Council's Division of Foreign Missions.
5. The United States and Collective Security, Dr. Frank P. Graham, UN Representative in India and Pakistan, former president of the University of North Carolina and a former U.S. Senator.

This fourth Study Conference like its predecessors is sponsored by the Department of International Justice and Goodwill. Approximately 500 delegates representing more than 35 Protestant and Orthodox churches in the U.S. are expected to take part.

"DON'T JOIN THE BOOK BURNERS"

With these words President Eisenhower at Dartmouth on June 14 entered the controversy over what books should be in U.S. Overseas Libraries. Our government has 189 libraries in 63 countries as part of the U.S. Information Service (USIS) which also includes the Voice of America, films, pamphlets and news releases. The aim of USIS, as one part of our overall foreign policy, is to give the world a "full and fair picture" of our country. Our Overseas Libraries seek to provide basic information about U.S., scientific and cultural knowledge, and a cross-section of American culture.

Since February the USIS Libraries have been under attack by Senator Joseph McCarthy for including books by "Communists" and "Soviet-endorsed" writers. The State Department issued a series of directives designed to establish standards for removing questionable books. As a result several hundred books were removed and some were actually burned. The book purge met with severe criticism at home and abroad. "There are probably foreigners today," commented the N.Y. Times on June 23, "who think that the U.S. Government is engaged in a vast book-burning campaign."

Since February the USIS libraries have been under attack by Senator Joseph McCarthy for including books by "Communists" and "Soviet-sponsored" writers. The State Department issued a series of resolutions designed to establish standards for removing questionable books. As a result several hundred books were removed and some were actually burned. The book purge met with severe criticism at home and abroad.

With these moves President Eisenhower at Washington on June 10 entered the controversy over what books should be in US libraries. Our government has 159 libraries in 51 countries as part of the U.S. Information Service (USIS) which also publishes the Voice of America, films, pamphlets and news releases. The aim of USIS, as one part of our overall foreign policy, is to give the world a "full and fair picture" of our country. Our overseas libraries work to provide basic information about US, scientific and cultural knowledge, and a cross-section of American culture.

#### WOMEN JOIN THE BOOK PURGE

This month's book controversy has its predecessors in the Department of Information, Justice and Consular Affairs. Approximately 500 delegates representing more than 25 countries and 100 churches in the U.S. are expected to take part.

5. The United States and Collective Security. Dr. Frank P. Graham, US Representative to India and Pakistan, former president of the University of North Carolina and a former US Senator.

4. The United States and the Underdeveloped Areas. Dr. Henry T. Ross, former assistant of the Director of the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America, Foreign Ministry.

3. The United States and Foreign Economic Policy. Prof. Willard L. Thorp, former assistant secretary of State for Economic Affairs.

2. The United States and the United Nations. Mr. Philip Thompson, a Chicago attorney and a former US delegate to the UN.

1. The United States and International Responsibility. The Rt. Rev. Angus Dun, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C. The title of this collection is also the overall theme of the Cleveland Conference.

papers now being prepared by five study commissions. The topics of the commissions and the names of their chairmen follow:

Cleveland Planning Committee and are reflected in the topics of the five working groups and other far-reaching developments were taken into account by the

them to sell more goods here rather than by giving them credits or loans. has been a growing interest in helping the economies of our allies by permitting them to sell more goods here rather than by giving them credits or loans. and Communist aggression in Korea by military force. In the past two years there 1949) NATO has been established, the United Nations has been established, and the UN has national developments. Since the last Study Conference (Cleveland, March 5-11, come to grips with several problems thrown into sharp relief by recent international

The Cleveland Conference on the Americas and World Order (Oct. 21-26) will

The picture was clarified on July 8 in a policy statement issued by Dr. Robert L. Johnson, retiring head of the International Information Administration, with the approval of Mr. Dulles. According to the N.Y. Times (July 9) Johnson's statement called book burning a "wicked symbolic act." The aim of the Library Program, according to the statement, is to protect the good name of the American people abroad. The yardstick for selection is to be the usefulness of a particular book based on its content. Books by Communists might be included "if perchance they affirmatively served the ends of democracy." Controversial books and books critical of the U.S. are acceptable, but "the U.S. Government has no obligation to make available... any books that advocated directly or indirectly the destruction of our freedoms and our institutions." Senator McCarthy called the Communist-author section of the policy statement "completely ridiculous."

### SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER . . .

**\*\* Disarmament:** A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 32) favoring enforceable universal disarmament through the UN was introduced in the Senate by Senator Ralph E. Flanders (R-Vermont) on June 3, with the bipartisan support of 33 other Senators.

**\*\* Refugees:** The emergency bill to admit 240,000 refugees and surplus population in the next two years is stalled in the House and Senate Judiciary Committees because some members oppose it. President Eisenhower supports the measure. There is still time to let your Senators and Congressmen know how you feel.

**\*\* Children:** Congress has not yet appropriated its pledged contribution of \$9,800,000 to the UN International Children's Emergency Fund for this year. Letters on the UNICEF pledge should be sent to your Congressmen.

**\*\* Trade:** The House and Senate have passed conflicting versions of a bill to extend the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act for one year. The Senate bill adopted on July 2 by a voice vote cut out a House amendment adding one member to the 6-member Tariff Commission, thus destroying its bipartisan character. A Senate-House Conference Committee is now working on a compromise bill.

**\*\* Pakistan:** One million tons of wheat "from the people of the U.S." to the people of Pakistan are on their way because of a bill adopted by Congress on June 24. The wheat will help avert the near-famine caused by two years of drought.

**\*\* UN Flag:** President Eisenhower signed a bill on July 10 prohibiting the display of the UN and foreign flags more prominently than the U.S. flag, but he protested its "unfortunate" language.

**\*\* Soviet Gift:** The U.S.S.R. announced on July 15 that it would give \$1,000,000 to the UN Technical Assistance Fund for 1953. "This is the first time the Soviet Union has given anything to any UN fund for helping anyone," reported the N.Y. Times, July 16.

---

The next number of the Newsletter will be in September. Thereafter it is to appear monthly, and perhaps fortnightly at a later date. Among the regular features, not in this number, will be brief pamphlet reviews and an annotated list of books and current articles. A subscription to the Newsletter is \$1.00 per year.

-- Ernest W. Lefever, Editor

